



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 05/14/2012

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 14, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Mr. Greeley, Chair, Mr. Dunn, Vice Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Mr. Byrne and Mr. Curro
 Also Present: Mr. Chapdelaine, Ms. Rice and Mrs. Krepelka

FOR APPROVAL

1. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)

- a. Minutes of Meetings: April 30, 2012
- b. Permit for Memorial Day Parade, 5/28/12
 William F. McCarthy, Director, Veterans' Services

Mr. Curro moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

2. Vote for Reconsideration: Minuteman School Building Issue

Kevin F. Greeley, Chair

Chairman Greeley passed the gavel to Mr. Dunn., Vice Chair.

Mr. Greeley made motion to reconsider the vote taken by the Board of Selectmen at the Warrant Article Hearing regarding Article 45/Appropriation/Minuteman Regional Vocation Technical High School.

Mr. Dunn opened floor for discussion on motion of reconsideration.

Mr. Charles Foskett, member of the Finance Committee, stated that Minuteman has not given Arlington more voting power or reduced its assessment which were conditions of the 2010 Town Meeting approval of the feasibility study money. Mr. Foskett feels by continuing to support the study when these conditions have not been met, the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen overruled Town Meeting's authority. Mr. Foskett stated that Minuteman has no intention to make the changes Arlington wants and if Arlington does not take a stand before the building project starts, the Town will lose leverage to demand a more equitable agreement.

Mr. Byrne made the motion that Town Counsel write a strongly worded letter to Dr. Bouquillon, the Minuteman School Committee and the Regional Agreement Task Force stating that we will agree to go along with the feasibility study of Minuteman, but it is not the intent of the Board of Selectmen to support this project moving forward unless real changes are made to the regional agreement that gives communities adequate management influence proportional to its monetary input.

Mrs. Mahon amended the motion to remove the word "real".

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mrs. Mahon stated she would continue to support the feasibility study for two reasons:

- (1) Based on the good faith representations by Dr. Bouquillon that the changes to the Regional Agreement, as well as language concerning member communities would be submitted and agreed upon, and (2) Dr. Bouquillon represented in order to get more communities (member and/or non-member) he needed to show that a state-of-the

art, high tech vocation school was being planned.

Mrs. Mahon also stated that if, at the end of the feasibility study, there was no agreement, then she would not have any issue with voting in the negative to move forward and/or commit any more of Arlington's monies. Mrs. Mahon indicated she would ask the Town Manager to investigate any means available to recoup some, if not all, of the monies spent on the study. Mrs. Mahon also asked Dr. Bouquillon for several documents referred to at the November 15, 2011 Minuteman School Committee meeting, including a request made by a member to Minuteman's Town Counsel. Mrs. Mahon also asked Town Counsel Rice to render her opinion regarding the legal issues raised by Mr. Foskett concerning Article 58 at Arlington's 2011 Annual Town Meeting.

Dr. Bouguillon, Minuteman Superintendent, stated that a task force had been working to build consensus to change the regional agreement and member communities' town managers were joined in the effort.

Laura Morissette, Arlington representative on the Minuteman School Committee, stated the vocational school needs repairs and Arlington shouldn't dig in its heels right now.

She feels by stopping the feasibility study and cutting the budget Arlington would be sending a message that Arlington is uncooperative and doesn't deserve the empathy of the other towns.

Mr. Tosti, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the Selectmen should support the feasibility study because Minuteman's best chance at changing the regional agreement to help Arlington lies in giving member towns hard numbers. Mr. Tosti feels no town is going to make changes if they can't see how it's going to impact their town.

Mr. Tosti stated that we should move ahead over the next few weeks with a committee consisting of Charles Foskett, Dan Dunn, Stephen DeCoursey, Adam Chapdelaine and himself to make changes as adopted in Article 58.

Mr. Greeley's motion to reconsider failed.

SO VOTED (0-5)

3. Discussion: Travel Restrictions on Jason Street Between Hillsdale Road and Spring Street

Jeff Maxtutis, TAC Co-Chair

Howard Muise, TAC Co-Chair

Mr. Maxtutis stated the TAC could examine other options that might be applicable to upper Jason Street. TAC stated that studies show drivers aren't speeding on Jason Street.

Mrs. Mahon suggested that TAC do a traffic count on Hillsdale Rd., Pleasant View Rd., Spring Street, Pleasant Street, Lake Street, Park Avenue and Highland Ave.

SO VOTED (5-0)

The following neighborhood residents spoke:

Denise Long, 48 Pleasant View Road, asked if TAC would look at it from a neighborhood approach and just not Jason Street.

Mark Spengler, 180 Jason Street, stated his concerns are as follows:

1. The volume of cars.
2. Poor sight lines at Menotomy Rocks Park and in particular from the island at Spring St. to the top of the hill.
3. The excessive speed at which vehicles accelerate up the hill in both directions.
4. The danger to children.

Mr. Spengler asked the Board to direct the TAC to provide a solution to this critical problem.

Donna Wren, 75 Hillsdale Road, is concerned with the speed at the corner of Spring Street and Hillsdale Road. She stated she is willing to work on any neighborhood solution if the TAC is interested in talking with residents.

Bill Moyer, 49 Hillsdale Road, asked if there is something we can do to enforce the speeding laws.

Dorothy Hled, 184 Jason Street, suggested looking for creative solutions to reduce speeding and traffic on their streets - maybe installing crosswalks on Jason Street after the park entrance.

Pat Evans, 156 Jason Street, suggested TAC consider parking on one side of street.

Mrs. Mahon made to refer to TAC.

SO VOTED (5-0)

4. Preliminary Committee Assignments

Kevin F. Greeley, Chair

Mr. Greeley presented a list of committee assignments and asked the Board to look at list and, if everyone is agreeable, a vote will be taken at their next meeting - May 21st.

5. Discussion: Selectmen Awards

Kevin F. Greeley, Chair

(tabled from 4/23/12 and 4/30/12 meetings)

Tabled to future date.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn to go downstairs to Town Meeting at 8:05 p.m. SO VOTED (5-0)

A true record: Attest

Marie A Krepelka
Board Administrator